MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATES

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

7th to 12th, 14th, 15th, 17th and 18th September 1959.

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Re-examination in Hindi

* 21 Q.—DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state— 3-10 p.m.

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there was any re-examination in Hindi for the candidates who appeared for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination in March 1959; and

(*b*) if so, the circumstances under which the re-examination was held?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) It was brought to the notice of the Commissioner for Government Examinations that the questions for the examination in Hindi under Part II of the First Language (non-intensive study) of the S.S.L.C. Public Examination, March 1959, were not from the prescribed text-book. Since about 1,500 students had taken the subject and since it was considered not possible to assess their performance on the basis of their answer to the defective question paper, the Commissioner held a re-examination in the subject.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : May I know what steps the Government propose to take so as to see that such things do not happen in the future?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : In spite of the best steps we take, sometimes mistakes are committed. As a matter of fact, here one person had to set a paper and it had to be scrutinised by another set of persons. In spite of that, the mistake has crept in. But we are trying to see that these mistakes do not recur in future years.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : May I know whether, in the first instance, steps are being taken not to entrust to the same set of persons both setting and scrutiny of the same papers?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is what we are trying to do. But the difficulty is we have to find persons with sufficient knowledge and integrity to set the papers and scrutinise them so that there may not be any malpractices in that and the questions may not leak out. The paucity of persons is also there. Taking all these into consideration, we are trying to see that one and the same person is not given too many papers.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : The Hon. Minister, I suppose, will agree that the position is rather serious because the question paper has been set on intensive text-books, whereas the paper ought to have been set on non-intensive text-books. The matter appears to be serious and therefore it is I bring it to the notice of the Hon. Minister. I hope that Government will give an assurance that such things will be avoided in future as far as possible.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : As a matter of fact, we have taken action against the persons concerned and we have debarred them for a number of years from being given this job.

But apart from that, we take sufficient care. In spite of that care, if anything wrong happens, the hon. Member should not think that we have gone back on assurances.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : The gentleman, who set the paper last year was setting it for the past three years—I mean the paper in Hindi—and no mistake was committed by him in the previous years.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Once a mistake is committed, publicity is immediately given to it and we seem to think that it is a regular practice to commit mistakes. The person concerned here is, as far as I know, quite a capable and able man. In spite of that, the mistake has occurred. We can only say that to err is human. We have taken action against him still, and we hope in future such things will not happen.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is it not the practice that the questions set by the paper setter are scrutinised by two other members of the Board?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes. But the scrutiny has also proved in this case ineffective. Therefore, we have taken action against the paper setter and also persons who scrutinised these things.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Can the Government enlighten us on how exactly this error crept in both on the part of the setter and the supervisor? Was it due to want of proper instructions?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not understand the question at all. I do agree no investigation was made into how this mistake occurred. The fact is that instead of setting the paper in respect of one book, it was done in respect of completely a different book altogether. Evidently, he got confused as he had to set four or five papers and the mistake crept in.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Has it happened with regard to Hindi alone or with regard to some other papers as well?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : If it had happened in respect of any other paper, it would have formed the subject-matter of a question in this House.

Holidaying in the Nilgiris

* 22 *Q.*—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to give any help or facilities to the Non-Gazetted Officers for holidaying in the Nilgiris during summer; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which it stands?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is what I said just now.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will a certificate once found valid be taken as valid for a number of years, say, from Form IV to Form VI? Or, do they require it every year?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do hold that it depends upon the actual amount which might be varying from month to month. Therefore, how can we make it valid for years together?

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I understand that this certificate has to be produced monthly from the parent from Burma?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Not monthly. But at least yearly it should come.

Medium of instruction

* 24 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government Arts College, Coimbatore, will be made pilot college wherein the medium of instruction will be Tamil from 1960–61; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that no grant will be paid to private colleges which do not change over to Tamil as medium of instruction after 1963–64?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir. But this will be only in respect of the peorganised B.A. Degree Courses.

(*b*) The medium of instruction in the reorganised B.A. Degree courses will be changed to Tamil throughout the State from 1963–64. Private colleges can continue to provide the English medium in these courses thereafter and the provisional decision is that no grant will be paid by the Government to them in respect of such courses.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, may I ask the Hon. the Minister for Finance why this important matter was not referred to the State Education Advisory Committee, instead of being referred to the High Power Tamil Committee which, in the very nature of things, will endorse this proposal?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is also being placed before the State Education Advisory Committee.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Am I to understand that the Government of Madras feel that, apart from the fact whether the scheme is a success or not, colleges should switch over to Tamil in 1963?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have no doubt about the success of it. That is why I have fixed a date.

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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : The Hon. the Minister for Finance said that the scheme was going to be a success. I do not question that. I wish him all success. But why should he impose financial sanctions on private colleges and say that they will be deprived of grants?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : To get a grant is no right. It is for certain reasons that we give grants and it is up to the Government to impose conditions which the colleges should fulfil for the purpose of being eligible for getting the grant. If the conditions are not fulfilled, it is open to the Government to refuse the grant. As I have already stated, the provisional decision is that no grant would be paid by the Government and it is open to the Government at that time to consider the matter anew and afresh, if it is necessary.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : May I know whether it is not a fact that the Education Minister said that if the pilot project proved a success, then only he would consider extending it?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I said that if it proved a success, it would be automatically extended and that there was no question of considering it again. Of course, if there are difficulties arising, then the matter requires consideration. I may tell the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that when the Government Order was drafted, it was shown to him and that the paragraphs were discussed and that it was only with his concurrence that the Government Order was approved.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Sir, on a point of personal explanation. I very much regret that the Hon. Minister should have had a different impression from what I had of the discussion. It was a purely informal discussion and it was not possible to discuss the whole of the report for reasons which I need not go into now. The Hon. Minister himself was not keeping good health that day. The question of giving or not giving grant was never a matter for discussion between the two Vice-Chancellors and the Hon. the Minister for Education. That is my firm belief and I do not hesitate to say that that was the impression that the discussion gave me. On the other hand, I felt and I do feel now that the question of giving a grant is entirely a different one and that it should be in relation to the amendment of the Grant-in-aid Code which, I think, will require the sanction of the Government. It cannot be done by executive action by the Government without the Legislature giving its concurrence to it. 3-20 p.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : When the Government take a decision, all the necessary formalities would be gone through. Therefore, if it is found necessary that this House and the other House should be consulted and the required sanction obtained, certainly it would be done. And I have no doubt whatsoever that this House and the other House will consider the whole matter and take a decision. That is why I have stated that provisionally it

has been decided that no grant will be paid to them in respect of such courses. Apart from that, I would again like to remind the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that the draft Government Order was sent to him at least two weeks earlier and that a date was fixed for the purpose of discussing that with the two Vice-Chancellors. In that draft there is a specific mention about this also. And during the discussion we went through that draft order paragraph by paragraph. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition might have slipped that at that time. During the discussion no objection was raised either by the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University or the other Vice-Chancellor. But that does not mean that they cannot raise it again. But if the hon. the Leader of the Opposition should think that as far as this clause is concerned, it should be reconsidered, it can be done and I am myself always open to conviction.

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : May I know what is the use of starting a pilot college at Coimbatore if it is not to be extended to other colleges?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Who said it would not be extended to other colleges? I have already stated that it will be extended.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : No doubt it is the interpretation of the Hon. Minister of what he has said earlier and what was informally discussed in Ooty also that the institutions will not get the grant. But the question here is different. It amounts to saying : ' If you do not accept our decision or fall in line with our policy, you are not entitled to the grant '. Shri C. D. Deshmukh, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, has openly criticised the action of this Government and said in a statement or a Press interview that this is nothing but imposing the decision of the Government on those who do not fall in line with the Government policy.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :Sir, it is open to anybody to air his views and however eminent he might be, the Government have a responsibility to take a decision, of course, subject to approval by the Legislature in regard to these things. Of course, I would be guided by the expression of views by eminent authorities but ultimately we have to take into account our own point of view and take final decisions.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : While appreciating the anxiety of the Government having decided that Tamil should be the official language of the State, may I ask whether the Hon. Minister has considered this aspect of the matter, namely, the prospects of such Graduates from these colleges who may be seeking employment in firms and offices invariably outside our State, namely, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, because they cannot all of them be absorbed by the Madras Government or State even with the best of intentions of this Government?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : If the hon. Member had taken care to go through the Government Order, he would have found that we had stated that the standard of English, Part I, would be the same as the standard for the B.Sc. course. This specific change was made on the suggestion of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that it should be made specific in the Government Order.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Do not the Government think the year of transition, namely, 1963, is too early? Cannot they think of extending the time?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : By 1963–64 we would have worked it for three years and we would have had experience of working the first year course for three years. By that time, we hope, we would have gained sufficient experience to start the first year course in the other colleges. Therefore, I submit that there is no question of taking any risk in the matter.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Is this not a matter in which the University should have been consulted and not only the Vice-Chancellors, and had the former been consulted and its opinion obtained?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have informally consulted the Vice-Chancellors and later on when we switch over the entire B.A. degree course into Tamil, I have already stated, whatever formal procedure that would have to be gone through would be gone through. If legislation is necessary for this purpose, the Government will not hesitate to bring in legislation before this House.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Sir, I wish to make it clear that what was circulated was a memorandum by the Secretary of the Department. It never occurred to me that it was the draft Government Order. Therein lies a great deal of difference and the Hon. Minister will appreciate that the Vice-Chancellors did not come into the picture in the drafting of the Government Order.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I would request the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to go through the papers circulated to him and then he would find that apart from the changes suggested by him in the Government Order, no other change was made. Word for word the paper circulated to him has been completely adopted.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : There are a number of professors and lecturers in the Government colleges and the private colleges whose mother-tongue is not Tamil. What is to happen to them when this scheme is extended to the other colleges?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is a matter which is now under the consideration of the Government.

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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Apart from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition who is the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, how is it that the Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University who is as much interested as the Hon. the Finance Minister in Tamil, since the decision was taken in the conference, has not come out with an open statement in support of the decision of the Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I suppose I do not depend on his support for getting through this scheme. (Laughter.)

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will not the standards in the subjects go down by switching over to Tamil as the medium of instruction?

THE HON SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : On the other hand, there is the other side of the picture also. Some seem to think that when we switch over to the mother-tongue (Tamil) as the medium of instruction, knowledge is likely to improve. Of course, the knowledge of English may go down but the content of education and the content of knowledge with reference to subjects will go up.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : ஐயா, தமிழ் நாட்டில் தாய் மொழி வளர்ச்சிக்கு ஆக்கமும் ஊக்கமும் தருவதுதான் இந்த மாற்றத்திற்கு அடிப்படைக் காரணமா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : தமிழுக்கு ஊக்கம் தானே வரும். இன்றைக்கு இருக்கும் நிலைமையிலே அதை எல்லோரும் அறிவார்கள். பதினைன்றுவது வரையிலும் தமிழில் படித்து விட்டு, மேலே கல்லூரிக்குச் சென்று ஆங்கிலத்தில் படிப்பதென்றால், பெரும் பளுவாக இருக்கிறது என்பதை எல்லோரும் ஒத்துக்கொள்வார்கள். இதை எப்படிச் சரி செய்வது என்று யோசனை செய்து பார்த்து எல்லோரும் ஒரு முடிவு செய்யவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால், இதிலே தமிழ் பற்றோ, வேறு தேசப் பற்றோ ஒன்றும் கிடையாது. எப்படி நம்முடைய மாணவர்களுக்கு நல்ல முறையிலே கல்வி சொல்லிக் கொடுக்க முடியும் என்பது இதில் இருக்கும் அடிப்படையான பிரச்னை ஆகும். அப்படிப் பார்க்கும்போது, பதினைன்றுவது வரையிலும் எந்த மொழியைக் கொண்டு பாடம் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்கிறோமோ, அதிலேயே தொடர்ந்து சொல்லிக் கொடுப்பதுதான் நல்லது என்ற முறையில் வருகிறது. மற்றவைகளும் இரண்டாவதாக வரலாம்.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : As there seems to have been some misunderstanding over this matter (Hon. Members : No, no) will the Hon. Minister hold further consultations with the Vice-Chancellors before final decisions are taken?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I may tell the hon. Member that even though I have taken decisions, it has been my desire that the various bodies concerned should be consulted from time to time and their advice also taken. I only said that the ultimate decision would be that of the Government. Therefore, I may assure the hon. Member that there will be the fullest consultation with all the authorities concerned.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government certain that all the text-books that would be required in the various subjects would be ready by that time?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is one of the steps we are taking now.

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : சமீபத்திலே மொழி விஷய மாக நடந்த விவாதத்தில் பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்கள், "இந்தி நன்முகத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளும் வரை ஆங்கிலம் இந்த தேசத்தில் இருப்பதற்கு வகை செய்கின்றோம்" என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். அம்மாதிரி, திடீ ரென்று, அவசரப்படாமல், ஓரளவுக்காவது எந்த வருஷம் என்பதை இப்போதே குறிப்பிடாமல், 1963-ம் வருஷம் என்று குறிப்பிடாமலிருந் தால், நல்ல முறையில் எல்லோருக்கும் வரும் என்பதை அரசாங்கம் கவனித்து பின்னால், அதை யோசிக்குமா என்று கேட்கிறேன் ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : அதே உரையில் பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்கள், "கல்லூரியில் போதனை மொழி அந்தந்தப் பிராந்திய மொழியாகத்தான் இருக்க வேண்டும்" என்று வற்புறுத்தி யிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆங்கிலம் தெரியவேண்டும் என்பது ஒன்று ; தமிழிலே பாடம் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்க வேண்டும் என்பது இன்னொன்று. ஆங்கிலம் நல்ல முறையில் நம்முடைய மாணவர்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்திருக்க வேண்டும் என்பதற்காகத்தான், இந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுத்த காலத்தில் உடனடியாக ஐந்தாவது வகுப்பிலிருந்தே ஆங்கிலம் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்க வேண்டும் என்று முடிவு செய்தோம். அந்த ஆங்கிலம் நல்ல முறையில் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்கப்பட வேண்டும் என்பதற்காக, பிரிட்டிஷ் கவுன்சிலுடன் ஒத்துழைத்து, அவர்களையும் இதில் ஈடுபடுத்தி, ஒரு புதிய திட்டம் உருவாக்கி, ஆங்கிலப் படிப்பு நல்ல முறையிலே எல்லா இடங்களிலும் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்க வேண்டும் என்ற திட்டம் நேற்றிலிருந்து ஆரம்ப மாகியிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால், தமிழ் போதனை மொழியாக வேண்டும் என்பதற்கும், அதே சமயத்திலே ஆங்கிலமும் நல்ல முறையில் நம் முடைய மாணவர்கள் கற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டும் என்பதற்கும் போதிய நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : It is a very important question and I request the Chair to allow a half-hour debate on it. 3-30 p.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : May I say, Sir, that I cannot throw more light on this subject even if one hour is allowed?

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, may I point out that the question of allowing the debate is entirely within the discretion of the Chair?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Though it is entirely within the discretion of the Chair to allow or not to allow a half-hour debate, I must have the views of the Hon. Minister also on the matter. The real point is, this matter has been discussed threadbare a number of times, and questions have been asked and supplementary questions put, and I do not think that a half-hour debate is justified.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : The question of allowing the debate is entirely within the discretion of the Chair and the Hon. Minister has to reply to it if the Chair allows it.

State seed farms

* 25 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Plan scheme for opening new State Seed Farms was approved by Government;